

## Reagan assails Moscow over missiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan accused the Soviet Union on Friday of backtracking in negotiations on curbing medium-range nuclear missiles and urged Moscow "to come to terms on an equitable agreement." The president issued a statement marking the close of another round of negotiations in Geneva Thursday on reducing the medium-range weapons (see page 8). Reagan criticised the Soviets for renegeing on an earlier commitment to reduce shorter-range missiles in the medium-range treaty. "The Soviets have backtracked from this (earlier) position and are now saying that the question of shorter-range INF missiles should be taken out of the current INF negotiations and be dealt with instead in separate negotiations," Mr. Reagan said. "This new Soviet position on shorter-range missiles would allow the Soviet Union a continued monopoly of these systems and would leave them free to increase their existing force," he added. "This clearly is not acceptable to us or our allies." He said the "crucial issue" was whether Moscow would accept equal constraints on shorter-range missiles in the context of a medium-range agreement "or whether it will insist on maintaining superiority."

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## Dollar hits European low against yen

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. dollar fell in Europe Friday against all key currencies except the British pound, dropping to its lowest level against the Japanese yen since the late 1940s despite central-bank intervention. Gold prices jumped \$5 an ounce in Zurich and \$6.30 in Zurich. Silver bullion rose above \$6 an ounce for the first time in over a year. The dollar ended the week lower than all major currencies compared with last Friday's late rates. The dollar dropped to 147.65 yen in late London trading despite moves by the West German, French, Japanese and U.S. central banks to buy dollars in the open market to halt the dollar's slide against the yen. The scale of the intervention was not known. The dollar fell in afternoon trading to 147.40 yen, pushed up to 147.90 yen after the banks had intervened, but then fell back again. "The sentiment is overwhelming that the dollar is going lower," said a foreign exchange dealer for a U.S. bank in London. Earlier, in Tokyo, the dollar closed at 149 yen, down from 149.40 yen at Thursday's close and 151.53 yen last Friday. The dollar dipped Tuesday to 148.80 yen, its lowest level since the late 1940s.

## King sends good wishes to Malaysia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday sent a cable of good wishes to the king of Malaysia, Sultan Iskandar, on the anniversary of his assuming constitutional powers. In his cable, King Hussein wished the Malaysian monarch health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the Malaysian people.

## Sextuplets born in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian woman on Friday gave birth to sextuplets, the first such recorded case in Jordan. The sextuplets included two males and four females. Doctors from the Al Amal Maternity Hospital, where the delivery took place, said that two of the six babies were in "dangerous and critical condition" as their weights varied between 700 and 900 grammes. The doctors said the rate of occurrence for sextuplets was one per million. The mother had to undergo a Caesarean section which was supervised by gynaecologist Maher Al Sarraf, paediatrician Zafar Al Kaiafi, and anaesthetist Maher Khirfan.

## Israel trying for ties with China

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday Israel was making efforts to establish diplomatic relations with China. Foreign ministry official Avraham Tamir was expected to meet China's ambassador to the United Nations over the weekend, a ministry spokesman said. Asked in a radio interview if Israel was on the verge of a breakthrough in establishing ties with China and the Soviet Union, Mr. Peres said: "Not yet. We are conducting what is called softening up activity... one should not talk of a breakthrough but of paving the way."

## Israel said selling \$800m arms to S. Africa

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel sells between \$600 and \$800 million worth of arms to South Africa a year, the *Yediot Achronot* newspaper said Friday. Quoting an unnamed foreign affairs news letter published in London, the mass circulation daily said the figures came from a U.S. presidential report which would be presented to Congress next week. Israeli newspapers generally rely on foreign news dispatches to report arms sales to Pretoria because military censors bar journalists from reporting on the issue from Israel.

## Crashes mar Thai air show

BANGKOK (AP) — Three air force F5-E fighter bombers crashed in heavy rain Friday as they were heading towards Bangkok for an air show, police reported. All three pilots were killed.

## Fighting flares anew at Bourj Al Barajneh

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Mortar bombs and machinegun fire hit Beirut's Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp on Friday, killing one man and injuring two others, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said the firing came from Shi'ite Amal militiamen manning positions around the camp of at least 12,000 people in southern Beirut.

Amal said the front lines were calm.

Six women were reported killed by mortar bombs in Bourj Al Barajneh on Thursday. They were among 150 women and children who marched to the camp's western entrance to protest at having to use an Amal-controlled "path of death" on the other side of the camp when they ventured out to buy food.

Amal said last month that it had lifted blockades of Bourj Al Barajneh and nearby Shatila camp. Some relief convoys have reached the camps since then, but others have been turned back.

Palestinians say snipers have killed at least 21 women walking in and out of Bourj Al Barajneh on shopping trips.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has cabled Arab heads of state on Friday saying half a million refugees in Lebanon are facing a "war of extermination" led by Syria.

Mr. Arafat who was in Baghdad said: "It is clear that Syria, which intervened in west Beirut under the pretext of restoring security, had decided to starve our children to death and kill our women."

"A war of extermination is being launched against the Palestinians in Lebanon. They (Syrians) want half a million refugees killed or displaced," he said.

Text of the letter was made available to AP.

Syria dispatched an estimated

## Britain prefers U.N. action over Iran's missiles threat

KUWAIT (AP) — A British minister said his government would prefer the issue of Iran's deployment of missiles near the Strait of Hormuz to be resolved by the United Nations, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported Friday.

Lord Trefgarne, the minister of state for defence procurements also told the agency that "we are very supportive of moves within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to provide for some sort of collective solution to the problem."

Saudi Arabia and the other five GCC members — Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman — have been suffering from the offshoots of the Iran-Iraq war on their vital oil-shipping routes.

Iranian attacks on commercial vessels in the southern neutral

## Hostages' wives reject visiting Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — The Arab wives of two American hostages in Lebanon said Friday they would not visit Israel to discuss a swap of their husbands for Arab prisoners held there.

Jesse Turner, one of four professors kidnapped Jan. 24 from Beirut University College (BUC), said in a videotape released Thursday that fellow hostage Alanna Steen was ill and

Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh have been under a siege by Amal, Syria's main ally, since last November.

"Shatila's population is dying a slow death," Mr. Arafat told Arab leaders.

"There is no more water in the Beirut camp," he said. "What is happening will have very dangerous repercussions... it is a big catastrophe."

"We are helpless," said Badr Turner, 35, his Lebanese wife.

"I am an Arab and Mrs. Ferial Polhill is an Arab," Mrs. Turner told AP. "We cannot go to

Israel."

Mrs. Polhill, 45, the wife of American captive Robert Polhill, pointed out that she is a Lebanese citizen of Palestinian descent and added:

"How would it be possible for me to go to Israel? I do not even consider going to Israel because it is against my belief in the Arab cause."

"The only thing we are capable of doing is to ask the kidnappers to release our husbands," she said.

Mr. Turner's wife said: Being pregnant, I badly need Jesse. I plead with the kidnappers to be humanitarian and have mercy. Please release Jesse and the other teachers."

The four professors are Mr. Turner, 39, Mr. Steen, 47, Mr. Polhill, 53, and Mithileshwar Singh, 60, a native of India and a legal resident alien of the United States.

"We're living a new bitter time," the bearded and bespectacled Turner said in the videotape.

"We urge our wives and families to go to America and Israel and press there because the keys of our issue are there. Moving in Lebanon is useless."

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said early this week it was prepared to free Mr. Steen if the United States succeeded in pressuring Israel into releasing 100 Arab prisoners.

Israel, however, has refused to negotiate with the hostage-holders and the United States has refused to try to pressure the Jewish state into accepting their offer.

Mrs. Turner said she wanted the four professors "to know that we want them to be released soon because we need them. We don't know how we can help them."

She said Mr. Steen's wife, Virginia Rose Steen, 30, was in a "terrible condition" after knowing of her husband's reported sickness.

Mr. Turner quoted an unnamed doctor who had allegedly examined Mr. Steen as saying the communications instructor "had a crisis in his blood pressure."

"The patient (Mr. Steen) says that as a child he was hit in his head while playing baseball and he was knocked unconscious," Mr. Turner quoted the doctor's report as saying.

The doctor thinks that the patient needs lab tests and (a) few X-ray photos especially (because), as the doctor says, the shock Alanna received may influence his future," Mr. Turner said.

Mrs. Steen has confirmed that her husband was hit when he was younger by a baseball.

"We called the doctor about the statement and the medication in the statement. The doctor who was called in called for his immediate release so he can be in hospital," she said Thursday.

"Anybody under these medications should be in hospital," she said then, her eyes brimming with tears.

"Please, please release my husband," Mrs. Steen asked the kidnappers. She choked several times while talking to reporters.

The PFLP's apparent "flexibility," or, more accurately, readi-

## Bombs explode in West Bank after Israelis close 2 Palestinian campuses

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A bomb exploded at a soldier's hitchhiking post in the occupied West Bank and two petrol bombs were thrown at an Israeli bus, on Friday, causing no injuries. Two Palestinian campuses also were ordered closed for up to two weeks, the Israeli army said.

The actions were linked to the March 30 anniversary of the shooting death of six Arabs by policemen during protests in 1976 against Israeli land confiscations.

The blast occurred eight kilometers southwest of the West Bank city of Hebron, and soldiers immediately launched searches in the area, the army said, declining to elaborate.

On Thursday, the Israeli

occupation authorities on Thursday ordered two Palestinian universities in the occupied West Bank to close temporarily in an attempt to avoid demonstrations at an annual anti-Israeli protest day next week.

Al Najah university in Nablus ordered closed for two weeks from Saturday and the Vatican-funded Bethlehem University for five days from Friday, they said.

The move was aimed at preventing demonstrations by Palestinians on "Land Day" next Monday which marks the 11th anniversary of the fatal shooting by Israeli troops of six Arabs.

The 1976 violence erupted during demonstrations against the Israeli authorities' expropriation

of Arab-owned land in Galilee. Two other campuses, Birzeit and Al Rawda College in Nablus suspended classes on their own for a week on March 24 to avoid violence. The four closures meant more than 7,000 students would be out of classes.

An American professor from the Birzeit went on trial Wednesday on charges of inciting anti-Israel demonstrations, the army said.

Roger Heacock, 44, denied the charges in an Israeli military court and said he was arrested when he inadvertently was caught up in a group of Palestinian university students protesting conditions of their brethren in Lebanon.

The trial continues on March

31. In a separate development, Israeli authorities arrested a 23-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank and put him under what they termed preventive detention for supporting the Fatah faction of Palestine Liberation Organisation.

He was the 10th Palestinian in two days to be detained without charge for six months.

Other reports said Thursday hundreds of Arab prisoners were on hunger strike in three Israeli jails.

Walid Faqoun, a lawyer for some of the prisoners, said: "The strikers have personal demands. They want minimum living standards. They want to live like human beings."

## U.S. group forced to give \$135,000 bond before entry to occupied territories

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — A group of 28 black American pilgrims, who were denied entry to the occupied territories by the Israeli authorities on Thursday, crossed the Jordan River Friday after putting up a \$135,000 bond. The pilgrims are expected back in Jordan on March 31 after visiting Christian holy shrines in the West Bank, according to travel agent Michael Khan who organised their tour.

The agent told the Jordan Times that his uncle called him from Houston saying he had arranged for the payment of the bond as requested by the occupation authorities. Mr. Khan did not specify the terms of the bond but said it was refundable once the pilgrims left the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Khan said the Israeli authorities "tried every trick in the book" not to allow the pilgrims into the occupied territories. He quoted one of the black tourists as describing the Israeli attitude "an act of colour and racial discrimination."

"The Israelis may have assumed that the tourists were members of the black American Hebrews who immigrated to Dimona in Israel a couple of years ago," Mr. Khan said. This community, he said, was forced to return to the U.S. because of what the Jewish state saw as their conservative nature.

The leader of the 28-member group which crossed the River Jordan on Friday was quoted by AP in Amman as saying Israeli officials first said that the papers of the group were not in order and then demanded a \$150,000 bond. When the agent offered to pay the bond as demanded, they were told it could not be done that day, and that the \$1,600 in cash needed for the bond was not refundable, he told the AP.

The Reverend S.D. James of Opalocka, Florida, said the Israeli authorities at the King Hussein Bridge also refused to allow members of the group to call the American consulate in Jerusalem, saying the phone line was not connected to the Holy City less than 30 kilometres away.

"It has changed my perception of Israel, yes," AP quoted the Rev. James as saying after he and the rest of the group were kept for six hours at the crossing point.

"There was no food, nor water, nor soda during the six hours," he told AP at his Amman hotel.

Mr. Khan said it was the first time that the Israeli authorities had denied entry to a group of pilgrims. An earlier incident involved a black American who was turned back but no demand was made for any bonds.

Mr. Khan's travel agency, whose main branch is located in Jerusalem, organises tours for American pilgrims from all denominations to visit the Holy Land via Jordan.

## Moves under way to convene PNC in Algiers

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Preparations for convening the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers on April 20 are under way amid strong signals that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is seriously considering participating in what is seen as a reunification session of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Invitations for Palestinian personalities and all factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have already been sent out from the PNC headquarters in Amman and the door has been left open for all Palestinian groups to attend a national Palestinian dialogue due to start in Tunis on April 10. So far, Fatah, the pro-Iraqi Baathist Arab Liberation Front (ALF), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas) wing of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) have agreed to attend, while the PFLP and Talat Yacoub's wing of the PLF have accepted to join the Tunis dialogue but without prior commitment to take part in the PNC, according to informed sources.

Reports on Friday, however, indicated that the PFLP was seeking a "compromise agreement" with Fatah prior to the beginning of the Tunis talks. According to well-placed Palestinian officials, a top-level meeting between Fatah and the PFLP was expected to take place in Tripoli in the next few days. PFLP leader George Habash is currently in the Libyan capital while a Fatah delegation is scheduled to arrive there during the Tunis session.

"Anybody under these medications should be in hospital," she said then, her eyes brimming with tears.

"Please, please release my husband," Mrs. Steen asked the kidnappers. She choked several times while talking to reporters.

The PFLP's apparent "flexibility," or, more accurately, readi-

## Pakistan complains to U.N. over Afghan air raids

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan has lodged a protest with the United Nations over Afghan air attacks that reportedly killed scores of people. Officials said Friday that Afghan jets had attacked a Pakistani militia base.

The government said Pakistan's U.N. ambassador met Thursday night in New York with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and claimed Afghanistan was attacking Pakistani territory to create panic and disorder.

Officials in Islamabad said Afghan war planes attacked a militia fort Friday in south Waziristan, injuring seven soldiers.

The government said Thursday that five people were killed and eight injured when Afghan jets bombed the Tora Bora area. A Foreign Ministry official said the latest attacks raised the casualty toll since Monday to 152 killed and 212 wounded.

Afghanistan's government, in radio broadcasts monitored in Islamabad, said the Pakistani charge d'affaires had been handed a strong protest dismissing Islamabad's charges. Radio Kabul said Afghan forces had not launched any attacks on Pakistan.

Afghanistan charged that Pakistani air and ground forces have repeatedly attacked Afghan territory, killing and wounding an unspecified number of people, the radio said.

Radio Kabul said Pakistani jets and artillery launched at least eight attacks since March 14. Foreign Ministry officials in

# Iraq hails Tunisia for breaking ties with Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz Friday hailed Tunisia's decision to break diplomatic relations with Iran.

"Tunisia's decision is an example which deserves to be followed (by other countries) against acts of sabotage carried out by Iran's diplomatic missions in several Arab and foreign countries," he told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

Tunisia broke with Iran Thursday, accusing Tehran of recruiting its nationals to commit illegal acts abroad and to create anarchy at home by stirring up extremism.

"Iran Friday accused Tunisia of making false and baseless allegations against it, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by IRNA, said Tunisia failed to offer any evidence to substantiate its allegations. "It has merely stated certain things in general terms and demonstrated an irresponsible reaction," he aid.

The agency, monitored in London, quoted the spokesman as saying "the false and baseless allegations" showed that the Tunisian government was "frightened of the growth of the Islamic movement in Tunisia."

Tunisia's action followed the arrest of leaders of an Islamic opposition party in Tunisia and a police crackdown on violent protests by Islamic fundamentalist students.

Iranian diplomats in Tunisia

have been given three days to get out, the Tunisian News Agency, TAP, reported.

The accusations against Iran, made in a Foreign Ministry communiqué, were vaguely worded, but suggested a possible link with events this week in France, where people arrested on arms charges were found to be carrying Tunisian passports.

Meanwhile, a 27-year-old Tunisian named Abouani Hamouda Hassan is under arrest in the small Red Sea state of Djibouti and is said by the authorities there to have confessed that he planted a bomb that killed 11 people, including four French servicemen and four other foreigners.

The Foreign Ministry said the Iranian embassy had violated diplomatic practice calling for "abstention from any act liable to harm the interests and sovereignty" of the host state.

The Iranian embassy was the link between Iranian organisations and pro-Iranian extremists attempting to sow ideological confusion and anarchy in Tunisia, it said.

It said the embassy was involved in the surveillance of other diplomatic missions in Tunis and in "the recruitment of certain elements among the (Tunisian) communities abroad to commit

acts against international law."

This was intended to harm Tunisia's relations with friendly countries, it said, without naming the states concerned.

After severing diplomatic relations with Iran, Tunisia has begun talks with France concerning six Tunisian passport holders detained in Paris as suspected pro-Iranian guerrillas.

Tunisia's ambassador to France consulted French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua Thursday on anti-terrorist moves, the official TAP said, without giving details.

AMBASSADOR Mustapha Zaouani said in a radio interview that those arrested in Paris belonged to the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group, a fundamentalist Shi'ite organisation which has said it is holding French hostages in Lebanon.

Eight people, including six with Tunisian passports, were arrested in France last weekend accused of planning to carry out attacks there. Quantities of arms and explosives were found.

Three members of Islamic Jihad were executed in Tunis last summer for belonging to a criminal organisation and taking part in attacks on two police stations and a bank.

Another member was sentenced to death in absentia and is still on the run. Others in a 27-strong group were given sentences ranging from life imprisonment to five years jail.

## Abu Iyad reports Syria-Iran disagreement on Lebanon

KUWAIT (AP) — A Palestinian commando leader reported disagreement between Syria and Iran on hostages held in Lebanon and on a possible Syrian intervention in Shi'ite Muslim southern Beirut.

"According to the information we have, the negotiations between Tehran and Damascus, which have been going on since the deployment of Syrian forces in west Beirut on Feb. 22, turned out over the past days to be a failure," said Salah Khalaf.

Mr. Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, is the right-hand man of Mr. Yasser Arafat in Fatah, the mainstream commando group under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He arrived Wednesday on a visit to Kuwait, where an estimated 300,000 Palestinians are employed in various sectors of the Gulf state.

Mr. Khalaf, speaking at a news conference Thursday, said the talks on Lebanon were being conducted by Syria on one side, and Iran and the Shi'ite Hezbollah, or Party of God, on the other.

He said one of the disagreements centred on the foreign hostages held in Lebanon, apparently because Syria felt Hezbollah's conditions for helping gain their release were too tough.

Mr. Khalaf said that in return for helping ensure the release of hostages, Hezbollah was stipulating that Syria ensure the release of 17 prisoners in Kuwait, two in France and two in West Germany.

Although Hezbollah itself has not claimed responsibility for holding hostages, it shares the same pro-Iranian political views as several of the groups that hold foreign captives.

Three of 17 terrorists convicted for the blasts at the U.S. and French embassies and other buildings in Kuwait in December 1983 were sentenced to death in 1984. They have not yet been executed.

The two prisoners in France are Anis Naccache, convicted in the attempted assassination of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, and Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, recently sentenced to life imprisonment for complicity in the murders of two diplomats.

It was not clear why Mr. Khalaf listed Abdallah as being one of the prisoners Hezbollah wanted released.

The prisoners in West Germany are Mohammad Ali Hamadi, arrested at Frankfurt Airport after explosives were allegedly found in his luggage, and wanted in the United States in connection with the TWA hijacking in Beirut, and his brother Ali Abbas Hamadi, arrested at the same time and suspected of involvement in the kidnappings in Beirut of two Germans.

Mr. Khalaf said he intended to

## Greece orders military alert in Aegean crisis

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece on Friday placed its air force, navy and army on alert as a Turkish seismic research ship steamed toward the Aegean Sea, challenging Greek claims on seabed oil rights around its scattered islands.

Military sources said air force and naval personnel were told to report to their units by Friday evening.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said all leave was cancelled indefinitely in what appeared to be the biggest Greek military build-up since the two NATO allies came to the brink of war over Aegean oil in Jan. 1975.

Premier Andreas Papandreou met with armed forces leaders, then briefed the cabinet on the crisis, government officials said.

"We don't intend to remain with hands crossed," the premier

told reporters as he left the cabinet meeting.

A long-running Greek-Turkish dispute over seabed mineral rights in the Aegean continental shelf flared suddenly Thursday when Turkey announced that the state-run Turkish National Petroleum Enterprise (TPAO) was resuming exploration outside Turkish territorial waters.

Its research vessel, Sismik, was reported heading for the Aegean with an escort of four Greek warships to test for oil in international waters in four areas around the northern Greek islands of Mytilene (Lesvos), Lemnos and Samothrace.

Greece claims ownership of mineral rights beneath most of the Aegean on the grounds that each of its 2,000 odd Aegean islands is entitled to its own continental shelf.

Turkey, which includes only a handful of Aegean islands in its territory, says oil rights in the continental shelf should be divided between the two countries on the principle of equity.

Residents of Alexandroupolis in northern Greece said troops and munitions were being transported to forward positions along the Evros River that marks the Greek-Turkish border in Thrace.

"There was military transport running through town all night, and ships leaving port with military equipment bound for Samothrace," said the local official who asked for anonymity.

In the northern city of Salonic, military sources said the Third Army was placed on alert and officers' leave was cancelled.

Last December, Greek and Turkish troops exchanged fire briefly in a frontier incident that left a Greek and two Turkish soldiers dead, but both governments moved quickly to smooth over the incident.

## Clergyman says Iran will not close Hormuz Strait

NICOSIA, Cyprus (R) — A leading United States is prepared to protect oil tankers against Iranian attacks in the Gulf and in drawing contingency plans for military action.

"As long as we can export our oil through the Strait of Hormuz, this strait will remain open for everyone," Mr. Kashani said. "The strait will close when the oil is not able to use it for our oil export."

He said Iran's policy was only to defend its water frontiers.

"Neighboring countries in the Gulf know that the Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in the security of the Gulf more than anyone else," the radio quoted Mr. Kashani as saying.

He said that by circulating such reports, the superpowers intend to create "anxiety and apprehension" among the Arab states of the Gulf.

## Swedish arms company chief allegedly admits smuggling

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The president of Sweden's largest arms company has admitted smuggling of weapons and ammunition to the Middle East, a magazine said Thursday.

The leading business magazine Veckans Affärer said in excerpts from next week's issue that Anders Carlberg, president of the Nobell Industries Sweden AB concern, admitted allegations that its subsidiary Bofors AB smuggled arms and ammunition on at least two occasions.

The excerpts were made available to news media.

The Nobel subsidiaries Bofors and Nobel Kemi are in the centre of a mounting scandal involving alleged violations against neutral Sweden's stringent arms export laws.

Mr. Carlberg was quoted as saying that the Bofors leadership knew that missiles which were officially sold to Singapore in fact went to Dubai and Bahrain.

The other smuggling case con-

## France plans no diplomatic action until after trial of eight suspects

PARIS (AP) — France will wait for the trial of eight suspected gunmen reportedly linked to Iran before considering diplomatic action, a spokesman for Premier Jacques Chirac said Friday.

Spokesman Denis Baudouin said Tunisia displayed "a certain courage" in breaking relations with Iran on Thursday, but added, "the Tunisians are the Tunisians. The French are the French."

He told reporters they should remember that Britain did not break relations with Syria until the conviction on Oct. 26 of Nezar Hindawi, after evidence at

his trial allegedly pointed to Syrian involvement in his effort to plant a bomb aboard an Israeli passenger jet taking off from London.

"The government, if it has positions to take and decisions to announce one day, will not do so until the justice system has decided what it has to decide" in the case of the suspected gunmen arrested in Paris, Mr. Baudouin said.

Asked what effect the case in which eight people, including six carrying Tunisian passports, would have on France's effort to improve relations with Iran, Mr.

Baudouin replied, "for the moment, none."

Mr. Baudouin cautioned reporters against concluding that France would eventually consider a diplomatic reaction, but twice volunteered the comparison with Britain's actions against Syria after the Hindawi trial.

The eight people arrested last weekend were charged Thursday with criminal association and with possessing arms and explosives for use in a terrorist attack. In statement, the French Interior Ministry said Wednesday the group was "getting ready to commit particularly dangerous attacks" in France.

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his trial allegedly pointed to Syrian involvement in his effort to plant a bomb aboard an Israeli passenger jet taking off from London.

Chad reportedly raids Libyan troops in Sudan

he said.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the report as government offices were closed on Friday.

Chad's charge d'affaires in Khartoum, Abbas Kotti, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview he had not been contacted by the Sudanese government about the reported raid.

But Mr. Kotti said his government had warned Sudan about,

the danger posed by the Libyan presence in Sudan.

He said Chad had told Libya that if Libyan troops on Sudanese territory attacked Chad, "we will have the right to attack them and chase them anywhere."

Mr. Kotti said the Libyans in Sudan last Sunday launched a three-pronged attack on the Chadian areas of Al-Tine, Kubus and Adde and that Chadian forces repulsed the attackers.

The two prisoners in France are Anis Naccache, convicted in the attempted assassination of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, and Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, recently sentenced to life imprisonment for complicity in the murders of two diplomats.

It was not clear why Mr. Khalaf listed Abdallah as being one of the prisoners Hezbollah wanted released.

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Mr. Khalaf said he intended to

## Reagan likens arms sales to Iran to paying ransom

COLUMBIA, Missouri (AP) — President Ronald Reagan has told a group of school children that his decision to sell arms to Iran was "a little like paying ransom."

But "I won't make that mistake again," Mr. Reagan said.

Visiting a class at Fairview Elementary School, Mr. Reagan was asked by one student about "all the publicity in the press and stuff" and "what it was that made it worthwhile."

Although the sixth-grade girl appeared to be asking why Reagan believed it was worthwhile, while president, he launched into his reasons for appointing the Tower Commission and his version of the secret arms sales.

"I'm afraid it wasn't carried out the way we had thought it would be. It sort of settled down to trading arms for hostages," Mr. Reagan said. "That's a little like paying ransom to a kidnapper. If you do it, the kidnapper is just encouraged to take someone else."

He called Iran a "very strategic country" and told the students that he believed the group holding the U.S. hostages in Lebanon was "getting its direction" from Iran's leader, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

As he has before, Mr. Reagan recounted how the Iranians asked for the arms as a measure of the U.S. government's sincerity when they began negotiations.

"I'm afraid it wasn't carried out the way we had thought it would be. It sort of settled down to trading arms for hostages," Mr. Reagan said. "That's a little like paying ransom to a kidnapper. If you do it, the kidnapper is just encouraged to take someone else."

Menachem Livni, Shaul Nir and Uzi Sharavitz, members of an anti-Arab terrorist group known as the "Jewish Underground," were convicted of murder.

Legal experts say the three could now be allowed short home visits with their families.

The other smuggling case con-

cerned Jonathan Jay Pollard to spy for Israel. Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment in the United States earlier this month for selling secrets to the Israeli.

A committee of Israel's parliament is conducting a separate probe of the operation.

The United States has strongly urged Israel to investigate the affair, which Israel contends was an unauthorised operation, and to punish Pollard's two main handlers, both of whom have recently been promoted.

Mr. Kashani's remarks were the latest in a string of comments by Iranian leaders to threats made by U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger that the

United States is prepared to protect oil tankers against Iranian attacks in the Gulf and in drawing contingency plans for military action.

"As long as we can export our oil through the Strait of Hormuz, this strait will remain open for everyone," Mr. Kashani said. "The strait will close when the oil is not able to use it for our oil export."

He said that by circulating such reports, the superpowers intend to create "anxiety and apprehension" among the Arab states of the Gulf.

The leading business magazine Veckans Affärer said in excerpts from next week's issue that Anders Carlberg, president of the Nobell Industries Sweden AB concern, admitted allegations that its subsidiary Bofors AB smuggled arms and ammunition on at least two occasions.

The excerpts were made available to news media.

The Nobel subsidiaries Bofors and Nobel Kemi are in the centre of a mounting scandal involving alleged violations against neutral Sweden's stringent arms export laws.

Mr. Carlberg was quoted as saying that the Bofors leadership knew that missiles which were officially sold to Singapore in fact went to Dubai and Bahrain.

Legal experts say the three could now be allowed short home visits with their families.

The other smuggling case concerned Jonathan Jay Pollard to spy for Israel. Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment in the United States earlier this month for selling secrets to the Israeli.

A committee of Israel's parliament is conducting a separate probe of the operation.

The United States has strongly urged Israel to investigate the affair, which Israel contends was an unauthorised operation, and to punish Pollard's two main handlers, both of whom have recently been promoted.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Arab vets send cable of support to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday received a cable of support and appreciation from Dr. Ismail Rida, the chairman of the 18th conference of veterinary medicine, currently being held in Cairo by the Egyptian society of veterinary medicine. The Arab delegations participating in the conference, expressed their appreciation and support for His Majesty's efforts and endeavours aimed at regaining the occupied Arab territories and the cable expressed support and backing for the King's supportive stand of Iraq in its defence of the eastern Arab flank against Iranian aggressors.

## Forum organises student debate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Forum Humanum will today organise a debate at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture on the characteristics and features of democracy in Jordanian and Chinese societies. A team of Chinese students who are studying at the university as well as a team of Jordanian youths will take part in the debate.

## Experts to open solar energy talks today

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab technical committee entrusted with discussing solar energy applications today opens a meeting at the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (ASMO). The three-day meeting will discuss the organisation's plans and projects connected with solar heaters used for domestic purposes. Delegates from Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and a number of Arab organisations will take part in the meeting. Working papers dealing with solar heating and the work of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in this field will be discussed by the participants.

## VTC to discuss survey on manpower

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will hold a seminar on Sunday to discuss a survey on manpower in Jordan. The survey was conducted by the VTC in cooperation with the Ministries of Planning, Higher Education and Labour as well as the General Statistics Department. The Cairo-based Ford Corporation donated \$50,000 to cover the costs of the survey which aimed at defining the characteristics and trends of labour and labour forces in Jordan in the industrial sector.

## Ministry prepares for admission exams

AMMAN (Petra) — The secondary admission exams for all students in Jordan will be held on June 14. Education Ministry sources announced Friday. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity said the ministry has completed the distribution process of all application orders to be used by all students who are to take the exams. The ministry has also selected centres to host the exams. Applications for the exams will be received by the ministry and its affiliated departments as of April 1 and will run through May 16, the sources added.

## W. German archaeology director arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of archaeological institutes in West Germany, Mr. Edmond Buchner, arrived here on Friday on a several-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with the Department of Antiquities Director General Adnan Al Hadidi on means of further bolstering archaeological relations between Jordan and West Germany. Mr. Buchner will also visit a number of tourist and historical sites in Jordan.

## Carter urges positive Israeli response

(Continued from page 1)

PLO. will participate must know that the international aspect is to bring people together for discussion. The actual negotiations on specifics would certainly be bilateral in nature."

In a related development, Mr. Peres fielded questions from Arabs in four countries on Thursday and said the best way to overcome an impasse in peace talks was to "share the government" rather than divide up disputed land.

The unprecedented programme was broadcast by Israel radio's Arabic language news show. Some 100 Arab questioners called the Israeli studio via Cologne, West Germany, and questions from some 30 were broadcast.

"The time has come to make peace," said Peres, capping the 105-minute show. "Despite our differences we can talk as neighbours and talk sense, even if not face to face, then voice to voice." Most questioners pressed Mr. Peres about his peace policies. Mr. Peres repeatedly defended Israel's refusal to talk with the

international aspect is to bring people together for discussion. The actual negotiations on specifics would certainly be bilateral in nature."

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## Moves under way to convene PNC

(Continued from page 1)

proportional representation for all Palestinian factions.

Although described as "positive" by the PFLP, the Fatah proposals fell short of satisfying all Palestinian opposition factions which issued a joint statement in Tripoli on Wednesday outlining their position on the convening of a new PNC session. The statement called on the PLO leadership to sever all contacts with Egypt, to announce an official annulment of the Feb. 11 agreement with Jordan and to cancel the resolutions endorsed by the 17th session of the PNC held in Amman in 1984. The signatures of the statement included the PFLP, the DFLP, the Talaat Yacoub wing of the PLF, Fatah rebels, the PFLP-General Command, the Popular Struggle Front (PSF), and Abu Nidal's "Fatah Revolutionary Council. On Thursday, however, the DFLP followed with another statement

explaining that although it agreed in principle with the political stands contained in the joint communiqué it had set "no pre-conditions to attend the PNC."

Despite the strict pre-conditions outlined by the Tripoli statement, observers said it represented "a change in the position of the Palestinian factions, especially that the demands did not include a call to remove Mr. Arafat from the PLO leadership. The most interesting aspect of the Tripoli statement, however, remains in the fact Abu Nidal's group has clearly shown willingness to return to the PLO on the basis of a Palestinian consensus. Abu Nidal's attitude started to change last November when it fought jointly with Mr. Arafat's Fatah in defence of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon against Syrian-backed Amal militiamen and vehemently rejected any ceasefire and any agreement which stipulated the elimination of Fatah forces in Lebanon.

## Religious ceremonies mark holy feast of Al Israa wal Mi'raj

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan along with the Arab and Muslim world on Thursday celebrated Al Israa wal Mi'raj feast (the anniversary marking the Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven). Religious ceremonies were held in mosques around the country and preachers spoke about the meaning and significance of the holy occasion.

The main celebration was held at the new Maghrib Ibn Shuhba mosque in Independence Street, Amman, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. The worshippers were addressed by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat who spoke of Muslims duty towards Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the need for liberating the holy shrine from Israeli rule.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan also addressed the worshippers and underlined the great importance of Jerusalem for Muslims. He also spoke of the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad and the Islamic faith.

Among the worshippers were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, senior officials, Cabinet members and religious leaders on Thursday pray at the new Maghrib Ibn Shuhba mosque on the occasion of Al Isra wal Mi'raj (Petra photo)

## Cables

Received cables of good wishes from senior government officials and prominent public figures. All government departments and public institutions were closed on Thursday in commemoration of the holy occasion.

Before the celebration, King Hussein inaugurated the new mosque.

## UDD project selected as model for U.N. conference on human settlements

By Mary West  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Urban Development Department's (UDD) East Wahdat upgrading project has been selected as a demonstration project at the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements tenth (commemorative) session, to be held in Nairobi from April 6-16.

1987 was designated by the U.N. General Assembly as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), and the session is an important landmark in the whole IYSH programme of action. It commemorates the first United Nations conference on human settlements, held in Vancouver in 1976, and will review national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements, and assess future perspectives and trends worldwide, up to the year 2000.

Several heads of state are expected to attend the conference, and a high level delegation will represent Jordan, including Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber, Director General of the Housing Corporation Shafiq Al Zawaidi and UDD Director General Hisham Zaghia.

According to the regional director of the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Mr. Ali Shabot, the UDD's East Wahdat project is one of the several projects worldwide that have been selected as models for the conference because they demonstrate innovative and effective ways of providing shelter for the poor and disadvantaged.

Security of tenure  
East Wahdat was formerly a

squatter settlement where nearly 400 families lived in tin shacks in deplorable conditions with neither secure tenure, nor basic services such as water, electricity or sanitation. In an upgrading project that began at the end of 1982, the UDD negotiated security of tenure for the squatters, and assisted them in getting low-interest loans from the Housing Bank to pay for their plots and build houses. Sewers, water supply and electricity were installed, footpaths were built, and the area now has a community centre and a vocational training centre for women.

The outstanding aspect of the project was the incentive it provided to the families to pool their resources and work hard to improve their homes and neighbourhood, once their tenure was made secure. The project demonstrates the importance of secure tenure, community participation and self help, and affordable building loans, which are proving to be key issues in low-income shelter projects worldwide.

## Pharmacists hold seminar on dispensing antibiotics

AMMAN (Petra) — A one-day seminar held on Thursday by the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) has recommended that dialogue should continue with the Health Ministry on dispensing antibiotics. The ministry earlier issued strict rules prohibiting the dispensing of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription.

The seminar also recommended that strong antibiotics be dispensed only by specialists who should first conduct allergy tests on patients before prescribing the drug, and also called on the government to speed up the application of a national health insurance scheme in Jordan. The seminar commemorated the establishment of the Arab Pharmacists Federation in the city of Jerusalem on April 2, 1986.

The seminar, held at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman, heard several working papers which also dealt with the question of antibiotics, along with other related subjects. JPA President Ghaleb Sabbari said that antibiotics were discussed because they form 38 per cent of the total sale of drugs in Jordan.

is GUVS president, received 122 votes followed by Fakri Bilbeisi who received 108, but Mr. Bilbeisi was elected chairman of the board for the Amman branch of GUVS during the first session. Representatives of 147 charitable and voluntary societies in the Amman region took part in the voting which was held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

## GUVS branch elects new board

AMMAN — The Amman branch of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has elected a nine-member board of directors, approved a 1987 budget of JD 272,000 and endorsed a report on the board's achievements, financial and administrative performance in 1986.

Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, who

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Security of tenure  
East Wahdat was formerly a

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## Jordan, India sign minutes of talks on economic cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The minutes of the annual meeting of the Jordanian-Indian committee on economic cooperation were signed in New Delhi on Friday after three-days of talks at the under secretary level.

The minutes of the meetings, which were signed by Under Secretary at the Trade and Industry Ministry Mohammad Al Saqqaf and his Indian counterpart for increasing the volume of bilateral trade and maintaining the present level of Jordanian exports of phosphates, potash and fertilisers. In the same year Jordan imported Indian goods worth \$15 million.

However, the 1986 figures of Indian exports have tripled from the level of JD 800,000 in 1985.

Mr. Saqqaf told the Jordan Times before his departure for New Delhi.

The Indian minister of trade received Mr. Saqqaf on Friday and both men discussed means of further consolidating bilateral trade ties.

The meeting was attended by Jordan's ambassador to India

but said that Jordanian raw materials will be used in the manufacturing process and the final product would be marketed in the two countries.

Statistical figures on bilateral trade transactions reveal the balance of trade was in favour of Jordan with India importing 20 per cent of the Kingdom's total exports.

In 1986, India imported 1 million tonnes of phosphates, and a total of 360,000 tonnes of potash and fertilisers. In the same year Jordan imported Indian goods worth \$15 million.

Jordanian imports from Indonesia include timber, coffee, tea, textiles and fabrics.

Accompanying Mr. Saqqaf on his 10-day trip are Mr. Assem Al Hindawi, director of the Trade Ministry's department for developing economic cooperation and increasing imports, and Mr. Ahmad Al Tarawneh and Mr. Wanis Al Hindawi, senior officials at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company respectively.

Jamal Khoutat.

## Visit to Indonesia

Mr. Saqqaf's visit to the Far East will also take him to Indonesia for four days of official talks in Jakarta.

Indonesia is also a major importer of Jordanian phosphates. Jordan hopes to increase its sales of phosphates to Jakarta from the present level of 500,000 tonnes for 1986 to 900,000 tonnes for this year.

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## U.S. joins 24-hour mail delivery service





A Palestinian refugee woman (right) turns an UNRWA school classroom into a playground for children (UNRWA photo).



Palestinian refugees flee a besieged camp during Beirut's "war of the camps" (UNRWA photo)

## Palestinian women of the camps: A special way of life

By Zahra Al Bahr

THE difficulty of writing about camps in relation to women is that they contain so many highly contradictory realities that to select one aspect at the expense of others leads to gross distortion. Within one small social space we can find women who run projects, and women who only leave their homes to shop; women who have studied medicine in the USSR, and women who were taken out of school at 13 to marry; girls whose brothers encouraged them to join a resistance group, others whose brothers burned their clothes to prevent them from going out; girls who fight to defend the camp during sieges, others whose only concern is the latest fashions. A camp is a kaleidoscope: Depending on where one looks or to whom one listens, it is a crucible of change or a bastion of conservatism.

One tradition has presented the camps as places where certain kinds of "progress" have taken place. Evidence selected ranges from falling rates of infant mortality due to improved health services (most women give birth in hospitals nowadays, and midwives have been "upgraded"); rising educational levels, result of free schooling from 6 to 16; opportunities for skilled employment; later age at first marriage, and the dying out of *ijbari* (coercive) marriage; the break-up of the traditional patriarchal household; and the widespread involvement of women in the resistance movement. All this is true. But it is important to guard against two kinds of distortion: First, the extent of these changes should not be overestimated; second, they should not be seen as beginning with the uprooting of 1948. All the most outstanding characteristics of camp women, whether it is

their capacity for struggle, or for rebuilding their homes, or for making money stretch, grow directly out of their peasant past, and can only be understood within this time frame in mind.

Take education: It is true that there were very few schools for girls in Palestinian villages — only 46 by 1944/45, but the demand for them was building up. Girls' schools were established in the 1980s in urban centres, and the cities had a cultural influence over the countryside. Further, the leaders of the national movement attached importance to the education of women. And by the '40s, there were already women teachers ready to work in villages. Old women in camps often talk about their struggles to be allowed to attend school; hence the pressure they put on their daughters to take the chance of schooling. Many a girl who has succeeded in "completing" her education, i.e. reaching university, has done so because she was supported by an illiterate mother or grandmother.

In contrast to Palestinian villages, camps provided free schooling, with the result that, by 1979, overall illiteracy had dropped to 35 per cent. In addition, the proportion of girls in elementary classes was high (85 per cent in Lebanon in 1977/78). However behind these encouraging statistics we find several dark areas. Less than half the girls complete the whole UNRWA cycle to gain the *brevet* diploma that would open up for them some kind of vocational training, while the proportion that continue into secondary school is very low indeed. PLO censuses in 1978/79 found that 22 per cent of the female population aged above 10 had reached the

primary certificate, 8.5 per cent the intermediate certificate, 2.8 per cent the secondary certificate, while only 0.9 per cent had been to university. Perhaps the most startling discovery is the low number of women with any kind of vocational diploma: one cause for concern is residual illiteracy in the school-age population: in Shatila 3.4 per cent of female illiterates were aged between 10 and 19.

This was the picture shortly before the 1982 war, when resistance scholarships were plentiful and incomes high. If statistics were available today, they would show even fewer girls going on to secondary school, and higher rates of drop-out all through. Lina, a Shatila girl aged 17, an excellent student who was aiming at university, was suddenly catapulted into marrying a young man with a job in the Gulf by parents who had had genuine ambitions for her, and had always proclaimed their intention of letting their daughters choose whom and when to marry. But times had changed, and they had eight other children to feed and educate. People say this is happening on a wide scale.

As to employment, anyone who visits the Beirut camps will be impressed by the visibility of women working in social institutions — around 70 per cent of Palestine Red Crescent workers are women. Moreover, today, women of camp background are often found in charge, responsible for a local centre or a section within an institution. Ten years ago, direction lay very clearly outside the camps, and there was a wider gap in qualifications and powers; whereas in Shatila today there are three or four women of whom the word "powerful" can legitimately be used, who control resources. But before extolling this as proof of "progress," we need to realise how contingent it is on the existence of jobs and resources. The number professionally employed in fact is very slight, and the possibilities for professional training available to the majority of girls, never extensive, are deeply threatened by present insecurity.

Second, it is only possible to represent the rather low employment rates of camp women as "progress" if we assume that they come out of a background of narrowly defined domesticity. But there is nothing really new about Palestinian women working. In Palestine the role of peasant women in agricultural

production was a strong one — they not only produced, but marketed their produce, and were used to handling money. They also possessed a range of artisanal skills other than the embroidery for which they are best known: Weaving, pottery, many kinds of food preservation, the making of domestic equipment, and parts of houses. They also managed large households that produced as well as consumed, a better basis than the nuclear family from which to launch into "social production."

It is important to recall these historical facts because, on the one hand, camp conditions caused the loss rather than development of these capacities, and on the other because camp women still possess the qualities bred by their foremothers' productive/managerial roles: physical strength, mobility, resourcefulness, and manual dexterity. What such women can become is well illustrated by those who have risen from a modest educational base to senior positions in institutions such as the Kamafam Foundation and Najdeh. Both have

made a special point of encouraging women from camp backgrounds to upgrade their qualifications.

But however exciting these manifestations are, they must be set against the stark fact of lack of training and employment openings. The provision of basic literacy to 80 per cent of girls in camps did not, even in good times, open up to them the possibility of skilled employment. This is clear from the low rate of camp women's participation in the labour force, 6.5 per cent according to the PLO census in 1979 (based on five camps), compared with 18 per cent for Lebanese women, and 11 per cent for Syrian women (1975 figures). The gate to all kinds of professional training (including nursing), is the *baccalaureat*, and between the *brevet*, when UNRWA schooling ends, and the *baccalaureat* stretch three to four years of expensive secondary school. True, a handful of camp girls were beginning to be admitted to UNRWA's vocational training centre at Sibteen (closed since 1983). True, resistance scholarships enabled another handful to reach university in Lebanon or abroad. But such chances were not available to the majority. For them the vocational training courses conducted in or near most camps were and are more relevant, requiring only *brevet* or basic literacy. But these courses

have been limited in type (mainly sewing and typing), as well as in level. Their diplomas were sufficient for jobs in resistance offices, but were not recognised by Lebanese employers. Though new vocational courses have been introduced since the 1982 war (including business and office skills, hairdressing, accountancy), very few graduates have found work. This is partly because of the closure of the Lebanese economy to Palestinians, partly because low income levels in camps do not allow the commercial development that generates jobs for Lebanese women.

It would be false to conclude from this, however, that vocational courses are a waste of time. On the contrary, there are many reasons why they should be expanded and developed. Women who work before marriage are more likely to work after, and though this brings strain, it is also a basis of satisfaction, and, in case of widowhood, it gives a woman qualifications to fall back on. Further, many girls leave the camp on marriage, and in the diaspora they are often able to

## FAO encourages poor to raise rabbits for food

By Frances D'Emilio  
The Associated Press

about raising larger numbers of rabbits. That villager, in turn, teaches others.

Bessie said that smaller animals like guinea pigs, chickens and rabbits are a logical alternative to raising larger animals like sheep and cows since the smaller animals cost less to feed, take up less space and breed quickly. Rabbits produce litters of eight to 10 offspring.

All the rabbit-raising efforts would be of little use, however, if people refused to eat them. So, the FAO also distributes an English-language cookbook to Caribbean countries that contains recipes such as mustard rabbit and rabbit cabbage.

In some countries, rabbits are already the basis for common meals or even Haute cuisine.

In Italy, *coniglio al bosciolo*, a dish of tender stewed rabbit meat with tomatoes and mushrooms, is a succulent speciality during winter months.

Skinned animals with heads still attached hang in butchershop windows with sides of beef and legs of lamb throughout Italy, Western Europe's largest importer of rabbits.

Bessie says that in the countries where rabbit-raising projects are underway, virtually no taboos exist against eating the animals.

Some problems in the project already have been faced. Project workers in Rwanda, for example, found residents raising the animals for sale rather than food.

"In Rwanda, so many people sell rabbit meat for money to buy other things," Bessie said. "Cheaper food or maybe clothes for the children."

Bessie said another problem was government officials who were concerned that introduction of the rabbits to their nations not duplicate the 19th century experience of Australia, where rabbits had no natural predators and, their numbers unchecked, destroyed thousands of acres of vegetation.

In response, Bessie says natural predators such as dogs exist in all the countries where the rabbit project is operating.

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## IAAF awards Gonzalez world mark over Coghlán due to timing

LONDON (Agencies) — Track's governing body said Friday that José Luis Gonzalez of Spain, not Eamonn Coghlán of Ireland, owns the world indoor record for the 1,500 metres.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said the decision to reject Coghlán's three-minute, 35.6-second performance in San Diego, California in 1981 as a world record was based on a lack of backup timing.

Officials said it was the only widely recognised world best to be refused indoor-record status.

Gonzalez's time of 3:36.03, set in Oviedo, Spain, last year, was correctly timed and thus accepted as the 1,500 record, Mike Gee, the IAAF's technical officer, said.

Coghlán's time was recorded during a mile race, which the Irish runner ran in 3:49.78. Both times had been on the books as world indoor bests and the mile mark has been accepted as an indoor world record with confirmation by the Athletics Congress, the governing body for track and field in the United States, the IAAF said.

"Coghlán's performance (in the 1,500) has not been ratified as a world record," Gee said. "It was a performance that was recorded in all the stats books and everyone knows about."

Since Jan. 1, indoor performances have been eligible for world-record status. Performances prior to this year, referred to as world indoor bests, have been reviewed by the IAAF for the record list, and Gee said Coghlán's 1,500 was the lone mark not given world-record designation.

"It was the only one where we did not get confirmation by the member federation that all requirements for a world record as we stipulated were met," he said.

To meet those requirements, Gee said, Coghlán's 1,500 would had to have been timed by needed three stopwatches. While three watches were used at the finish of the mile, only one watch timed the 1,500, Gee said.

Doping, U.S. footballers on IAAF council agenda

New punishments for drug offences and the reinstatement of American footballers were on the agenda of the IAAF council meeting which opened Thursday.

The council will also decide venues for three big events — the 1991 World Championships, the 1989 World Marathon Cup and the 1990 World Cross-Country Championships — during the four-day session.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo said the council would examine proposals to change the period of disqualification for positive doping which will go before the congress in August.

Under present rules, an athlete found guilty of drug-taking is immediately disqualified for life, with the chance of the sentence being reduced to 18 months on appeal.

"There are different ideas on this," Nebiolo said. "To some people 18 months seems too little so the council will study proposals to modify the punishment."

The council will also consider applications from the U.S. Athletics Federation to allow four professional footballers back into

athletics.

They are high hurdler Willie Gault, bronze medalist at the 1983 World Championships in Helsinki, sprinters Stanley Floyd and Herschel Walker and shot putter Mike Carter.

The IAAF modified its rules on professional sportsmen and women last August after deciding to reinstate American 110 metres hurdles world record holder Renaldo Nehemiah. It had previously resisted attempts to allow such athletes back into amateur competition.

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After that, it was an easy score for Sarvakos with the Dutch goal left totally undefended.

The Dutch team, which had opened the match aggressively enough, were visibly demoralized, and it took it at least 15 minutes to recover some of its earlier momentum.

Six minutes after half time, a corner kick by Arnold Muelher

"Rehabilitation of these four is not automatic," he said. "Not all of them have the same attitude as Nehemiah so the considerations are different."

Nebiolo said applications to stage the World Championships had been received from Los Angeles, Perth, Tokyo and West Berlin. Rome will host them later this year. The world cross-country candidates are: Ai-Les-Bains, France; Olympia, Greece; Belfast and Ostend, Belgium.

The council, whose decisions will be announced on Sunday, must also decide between Milan, Italy, and Oporto, Portugal for the World Marathon Cup.

## Netherlands, Romania win European ties

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (Agencies) — The Netherlands-Greece European championship soccer match ended in a 1-1 draw in the capacity-filled Feyenoord Stadium here seemed pleased enough, Dutch captain Ruud Gullit thought otherwise.

"We fought hard — that's the only thing I can compliment the team on," said the star player of PSV of Eindhoven after the match.

Although the crowd of 57,000

sent the ball soaring to Ronald Spelbos, who was ready at the near post of the Greek goal.

Spelbos passed it on to Van Basten, the ace player of Ajax of Amsterdam, who scored.

The Greeks opened scoring in the sixth minute of the Group Five qualifying match Wednesday night, after Anastasios Mitropoulos took a free kick faster than the Dutch team had expected.

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Meanwhile in Bucharest, Romania displayed the attacking face of its football character with an emphatic 5-1 win over Group One outsider Albania in their European Championship tie.

The emigre Romanians can be thrillingly stylish or uncompromisingly defensive as the mood suits, and it was Albania's misfortune to catch the home

team in an adventurous frame of mind.

Its victory was due in no small part to European Cup holder Steaua Bucharest who provided all five goal scorers, the deluge starting in the first minute of the match when Victor Piturca

headed home a cross from defender Stefan Iovan.

Albania did manage to draw level through Muca in the 34th minute but two further Romanian goals before the interval from Ladislav Boloni (41 minutes) and George Hagi, with a 45th minute penalty, ended the visitor's dwindling resistance.

There was no let up after the interval and defenders Miodrag Belodedici and Adrian Bumbescu raised the tally to five in the 54th and 59th minutes.

The result put Romania at the top of Group One ahead of Spain, whom it meets at home next month on goal difference with four points from three games.

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## Economy

## British, Saudi ministers meet over arms sales row

LONDON (R) — British and Saudi Arabian ministers met Thursday during a state visit by King Fahd for talks expected to try to resolve difficulties over a £5 billion (\$7.9 billion) arms contract, officials said.

The deal for Britain to supply Saudi Arabia with 132 warplanes, including 72 tornadoes, was signed last year. It was Britain's largest defence contract.

Saudi Arabia was to pay partly in oil but has fallen behind in payments since oil prices fell from \$30 a barrel a year ago to \$18 now.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer may ask British Energy Minister Peter Walker if methods of payment can be renegotiated, officials said.

Saudi Industry Minister Abduraziz Al Zamil was expected to

## Soviet economic growth doubled under Gorbachev, says U.S. report

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet economy has grown at twice the average rate of the previous 10 years under new leader Mikhail Gorbachev, but his goals may be too ambitious, according to a report from U.S. intelligence agencies.

The report was prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defence Intelligence Agency for the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, which released it Friday.

It said the Soviet economy grew 4.2 per cent in 1986, Gorbachev's first full year in power, twice the average annual growth over the previous decade.

Gorbachev's policies to improve worker attitudes, remove incompetent officials, reduce corruption and alcoholism and modernise the country's industrial equipment accounted for some of the gains, the report said.

"Although many of the specific policies Gorbachev has adopted are not new, the intensity Gorbachev has brought to his efforts and his apparent commitment to finding long-term solutions are attributes that his immediate predecessors lacked. Nonetheless, Gorbachev's programme appears too ambitious on a number of counts," the report said.

Earlier this week, two U.S. experts on the Soviet Union said Gorbachev was likely to be ousted in three to four years if he continues his reform policies.

"I don't think he can last four years," Marshall Goldman of Harvard University told a congressional hearing. "He's moving so fast, he's stepping on so many toes."

A similar comment came from Peter Reddaway of the Smithsonian Institution's Keanan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies.

The U.S. intelligence report said meeting targets for commodity output would require unrealistic gains in Soviet productivity, and industrial output targets appear too high to allow time to install more advanced equipment.

None of Gorbachev's proposals would change the system of economic incentives that has discouraged innovation and technological change, it added.

The first significant resistance to specific policies, although not overall goals, surfaced (in 1986) in both the massive government and party bureaucracy, particularly among enterprise managers who complained that they were being asked to carry out conflicting goals — such as to raise quality standards and output over lending policies.

The bank's lending actually declined slightly last year, even though U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker had called for it to play a greater role in support of his Third World debt strategy.

A compromise was being explored, and officials expressed hope it would be reached at the IMF meeting next month.

Bankers said a new confrontation with Brazil could be shaping up about the same time, because the country will need to ask banks for an extension of \$9.5 billion in debt due April 15.

Peru, Mexico charge debt crisis result of unjust system

In Mexico City, President Alan García of Peru and President Miguel De La Madrid of Mexico said Thursday that the Latin American foreign debt crisis stems from a unjust international economic system.

A joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of García's three-day visit said the debt problem "calls for national decisions, international solutions in the long term and a political dialogue of debtors and creditors within existing co-responsibility."

The two presidents also said that "the independence and sovereignty of all our nations are at risk in Central America."

The joint presidential communiqué said "the burden of the foreign debt is one of the principal obstacles for the growth of the countries of Latin America."

But the United States found itself in virtual isolation, with even Western allies arguing that the IADB should not be turned into a U.S. leading vehicle.

A 35 per cent veto, which could be sustained if just one other of the IADB's 12 executive directors voted with the United States, would "undermine the multilateral

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## Development bank meeting ends with issues unresolved

MIAMI (Agencies) — A three-day meeting of major international lending institution has ended, leaving unresolved such key issues as Brazil's debt moratorium and a U.S. bid for virtual veto power over the bank's operations.

Some 3,000 people attended the annual meeting of the International Development Bank (IADB) in the hope that anger over Brazil's suspension of interest payments could be defused and a way found to meet U.S. demands for more control over the bank's purse strings.

They left disappointed on both counts, setting the stage for a showdown at a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington on April 6.

Washington, the largest contributor to the bank, which has lent \$35 billion since its founding in 1959, holds a 34.5 per cent voting stake and wants increased powers over lending decisions.

U.S. officials, complaining the bank loans money too leniently, proposed lowering the veto power to 35 per cent, a move firmly resisted by Latin American countries, which together hold 54.2 per cent.

"The contributors of the preponderance of the bank's useable resources should be able to assure their governments that their contributions are being used effectively," W. Allen Wallis, U.S. undersecretary of state for economic affairs, told the closing session Wednesday.

But the United States found itself in virtual isolation, with even Western allies arguing that the IADB should not be turned into a U.S. leading vehicle.

A 35 per cent veto, which could be sustained if just one other of the IADB's 12 executive directors voted with the United States, would "undermine the multilateral

spirit governing institutions of this type," said French treasury official Ariane Obolensky.

The United States has promised to back a \$22-billion replenishment of the bank's resources over the next three years but only if it receives an effective veto over lending policies.

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## EC commissioner ends talks on customs union with Cyprus, relief to Lebanon

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Economic Community (EC) Commissioner Claude Cheysson left for Brussels Friday after saying it was important that negotiations for a proposed customs union between Cyprus and the EC end quickly.

Cheysson, responsible for EC Mediterranean relations, had talks with President Spyros Kyprianou and Foreign Minister George Iacovou. He did not say when negotiations would be concluded.

"I think it is important, I would even say imperative, that we should finish the negotiations (for a customs union) as soon as possible," Cheysson declared.

He was talking to newsmen at the presidential palace after a 45-minute meeting with President Kyprianou on Thursday.

Cheysson said the negotiations were entering their final stage, but he could not say when they would conclude.

Meetings in Lebanon

In Beirut, Cheysson met with Lebanese leaders Thursday on aid to war-torn Lebanon. Cheysson flew into Christian east Beirut on Thursday morning.

During his stay in Lebanon, Cheysson met twice with President Amin Gemayel at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda.

Cheysson, a former French foreign minister, crossed the five-kilometre (three-mile) dividing green line and discussed aid to Lebanon with Prime Minister Rashid Karameh after ending the first round of talks with Gemayel.

"We can help a country to progress... naturally in exceptional circumstances we provide exceptional aid," Cheysson told reporters after a one-hour meeting with Karameh at his office in Muslim west Beirut.

Cheysson did not elaborate. But his reference to "political grounds" was seen locally as a reference to the unofficial partition of the island resulting from the Turkish invasion and occupa-

tion of the northern part of the island in 1974.

There is a prevalent feeling in Cyprus that the customs union with the EC would eventually lead to full membership and thus facilitate the island's reunification.

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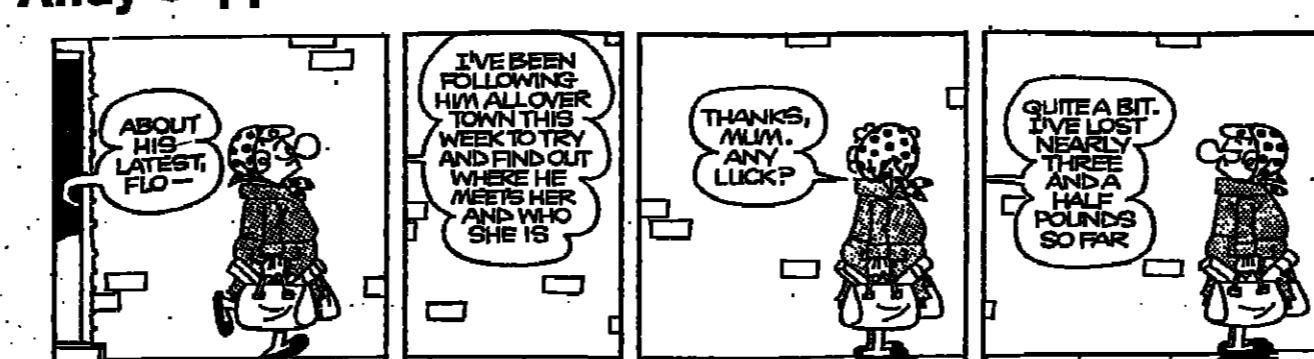
## Peanuts



## Mutt n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF

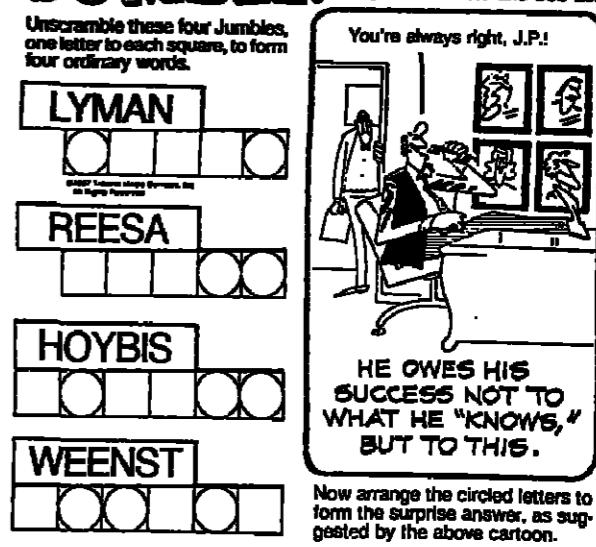
By Harris



"Sure I'm always tired! Being a flawless husband isn't easy!"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HE "SADDE"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Answer: LADLE ESSAY ALKALI FORCED

The only thing sure on a horse — THE SADDLE

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# Macao residents react favourably to China-Portugal agreement

**MACAO (AP)** — Residents crowded around television sets and read special newspaper editions to learn details of the agreement announced Thursday that will return this tiny Portuguese enclave to Chinese rule.

Many of Macao's 450,000 residents watched the 11 a.m. (0300 GMT) live broadcast of the Peking ceremony in which Portuguese and Chinese officials installed the agreement that will make Macao a special administrative region of China on Dec. 20, 1999. Appliance stores were crowded with people watching television to the ceremony.

In general, residents reacted favourably to the agreement.

Two of Macao's six Chinese-language newspapers ran afternoon extras with the agreement's full text. The 50,000 special edi-

tions of the Va Kio paper included both the Chinese and Portuguese texts.

The agreement is based on a policy of "one country, two systems." Macao's people are to retain their basic freedoms and economic system for 50 years after Portuguese administration ends in this 16 square-kilometre territory on the South China coast.

Although there was no mention of gambling, a major source of tax revenue for Macao, the joint declaration implied that Peking will not interfere with the operation of casinos.

## Remains of U.S. jet crew recovered from wreckage

**MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, California (R)** — The remains of entertainer Dean Martin's eldest son and another Air National Guard officer were removed from the charred wreckage of their Phantom jet fighter.

Captain Dean Paul Martin, 35, an actor who piloted the jet, and Captain Ramon Ortiz, 39, a Las Vegas banker, were killed on impact last Saturday when their F4-C Phantom slammed into the

side of a mountain.

The oldest of Dean Martin's three children by a former wife, Jeanne, Dean Paul Martin had been a professional tennis player, a pilot, a television actor and a musician.

There was no comment from Martin's father, the 69-year-old singer and actor, who received word of the grim discovery at his Beverly Hills home, according to publicist Warren Cowan.

## More spy charges brought against U.S. Marine guard

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Marine Corps has brought additional charges against the first of two Marine security guards arrested on suspicion of spying while working at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, Defense Department sources have said.

The sources, who agreed to discuss the matter only if not named, said the decision to add five additional charges to the 19 counts already pending against

Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree had been prompted by the recent arrest of another guard and former Lonetree colleague, Cpl. Arnold Bracy.

The sources declined to discuss the specific allegations underlying the new charges. But they said the charges included another count of espionage; and two counts of "espionage-related" general misconduct charges.

## Former U.S. secretary pleads guilty to tax evasion

**NEW YORK (R)** — Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Anderson, whom Dwight Eisenhower once said deserved to be president, has pleaded guilty to income tax evasion charges and illegally running an offshore bank.

Mr. Anderson, declaring that he was "deeply regretful," admit-

ted to evading taxes on \$127,500 of undeclared income.

Much of the money was paid to him for lobbying for controversial South Korean Evangelist Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

The 77-year-old Anderson was President Eisenhower's treasury secretary from 1957 to 1961.

## Thatcher visits Moscow today

**LONDON (R)** — British Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flies to Moscow on Saturday with the insult fired at her 11 years ago in the official Soviet media — "the iron lady" — now virtually a hallowed title.

Britain's first woman prime minister has made toughness her hallmark. Her supporters say she has lived up to, benefited from and even sharpened the iron-clad image with which she was branded by the Soviet armed forces newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

As she enters her ninth year in office on May 4 and prepares for elections she hopes will secure a record third consecutive term, Mrs. Thatcher has acquired a stature at home and abroad that puts her virtually in a league of her own.

She has been in power longer than any other elected Western government leader and has ruled Britain without a break for longer than any Conservative prime minister since the Earl of Liverpool notched up just under 15 years from 1812 to 1827.

## Bishop bans bodies of IRA men from churches

**BELFAST (R)** — A Catholic bishop in Northern Ireland has banned the bodies of dead Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas from churches in his diocese and denounced members of the banned organisation as murderers and terrorists.

The unprecedented ban was announced by Dr. Edward Daly, Bishop of Londonderry, 112 kilometres north of Belfast,

entry, West was forced to hold up, and he did so again when declarer continued with a club to the queen. A successful heart finesse reduced the hand to this interesting position:

NORTH  
♦ A 7  
V 9 8  
Q 6 4 3  
♦ A 7 5

WEST EAST  
♦ 10 9 8 6 5 ♦ 9 4 3  
V 4 2 ♦ K 10 7 3  
Q 9 8 ♦ A 10 5  
♦ A 9 8 3 ♦ 10 6 2

SOUTH  
♦ A K 2  
V A Q 5  
Q K 7 2  
♦ K 4

He bidding: South West North East  
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass  
Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Ten of ♦

The first six tricks were in the bank, and declarer found a pretty way to take three more. He exited with the jack of clubs to West's ace. The declarer did the best he could this time it was declarer's turn to hold up. On the nine of clubs East discarded a spade, but when West reverted to a spade East was forced to part with a heart. Declarer took his ace of spades and threw East in with the ace of diamonds to force a heart return. The marked finesse produced the ninth trick.

One reason for a holdup play is to try to shut out the opponents' suit. Another is to try to get a signal from partner on the key card. East was shooting for both these, but got burned in the attempt.

Faced with an unrevealing auction, West led the ten of spades, covered by the jack and queen and won with the ace. Declarer led a diamond to the jack and continued with another to the king as East, afraid that winning the diamond ace too early would give declarer nine tricks, held up for two rounds.

New declarer switched his atten-

At Macao's casinos, gamblers had other matters on their minds and did not want to discuss the accord.

"Don't bother me," barked one man as he laid down a bet at a roulette wheel in the Casino Lisboa.

The two sides settled a dispute

concerning approximately 80,000 Chinese in Macao eligible for

Portuguese citizenship by

agreeing any Macao citizen who

holds a Portuguese passport on

Dec. 20, 1999.

The settlement of the national-

ity question was a major reason

some people found the agree-

ment acceptable.

The agreement is satisfac-

tory," said Caro Assumpao,

chairman of the Legislative

Assembly and a leader of the

Macanese community, or people

of Portuguese heritage born in

the territory.

Macao has been a Portuguese

enclave since 1557, but 97 per

cent of its people are Chinese.

## Salvaging of capsized ferry moves forward

**ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (AP)** — Preparations to right a cap-

size British ferry off the North Sea port of Zeebrugge moved forward as salvagers took advantage of calm, sunny weather, officials said.

Salvagers are making good

time. They are ahead of schedule," said Richard Mills, a spokesman for Townsend Thoresen, owner of the 7,951-tonne *Herald of Free Enterprise*.

The vessel capsized on March 6

with 543 people aboard.

Mr. Ho has urged a greater

effort by the government to bring

about "localisation," or the

placement of Chinese in top govern-

ment positions, which now are

dominated by Portuguese and Macanese.

Last week, the government

sent 20 local Chinese to Lisbon

for a year's training in Portuguese

and civil administration as part of

a new programme to meet such

demands.

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cent of its people are Chinese.

for Dover, England, on the evening of March 6.

In all, 409 people survived and 60 have been confirmed dead. At least 74 bodies are believed to be still inside the half-submerged ferry which lies 1,000 metres outside the port in about 10 metres of water.

Mills said workers have welded a 50-metre cantilever brace to the ship's exposed starboard side and laid 10 anchors to keep the ferry in place during the righting.

The cantilever brace must keep the cables with which two pontoons will raise the ferry, from damaging the hull.

The pontoons will raise the ferry by 32 cables. On Thursday, Mills said, salvagers were installing the second set of four pulling cables.

## Former UNICEF head dies

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — Henry Labouisse, who helped to set up the Marshall Plan in Europe and was the head of UNICEF when the agency received a Nobel Prize, died Wednesday night in a New York hospital. UNICEF has announced.

He became executive director of UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund, in 1965, the year the agency received its first Nobel Prize, and remained with it for 14 years.

He is survived by his second wife, the former Eve Curie, the youngest daughter of the famed scientists Pierre and Marie Curie, a daughter and four grandchildren.

## Salvadorean couple free school hostages, surrender

**SAN SALVADOR (R)** — A couple who held almost 1,000 children and teachers hostage in a San Salvador school took part in a leftist guerrilla raid a few days earlier, the government has said.

The rifles used in the hostage drama were stolen in an attack on the town of San Marcos, just outside San Salvador, on Monday, Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said.

He said the incident at the school was a terrorist act which showed the desperation of the rebels.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the main guerrilla group in El Salvador, denied any involvement in the hostage taking, although it has pledged to step up actions in San Salvador this year.

Mr. Acevedo told journalists

the G-3 rifles used in the incident had been seized by guerrillas who clashed with civil defence militiamen in San Marcos. Two militiamen were killed in the fighting.

Mr. Acevedo said the rifles, and FMLN pamphlets found near the school, proved the hostage incident was carried out by the guerrillas.

The FMLN has shown its frustration at its inability to achieve its object of seizing power," he said.

In Wednesday's drama, an army deserter and a woman burst into a school in the poor San Jacinto district and held the 947 and 27 teachers hostage for several hours.

Some of the children escaped through a window and the others were released before the couple surrendered.

## Rocket failure deals new blow to U.S. space agency

**CAPE CANAVERAL (R)** — The U.S. space agency NASA, struggling to recover from last year's Challenger disaster and a string of rocket accidents, was dealt another stunning blow by Thursday's failure of an *Atlas-Centaur* rocket.

Mr. Deaver, who faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison if convicted, entered the innocent plea at a brief arraignment.

He was ordered released without bail and without any restrictions.

Mr. Deaver, who resigned as deputy White House chief of staff in May 1985 to open a public relations business, was indicted last week on five counts of perjury for testimony he gave to the U.S. Congress and a grand jury about his contacts as a lobbyist with top government officials.

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## COLUMNS 7 & 8

### First Miss Egypt crowned

**CAIRO (R)** — The first Miss Egypt was crowned early Friday in a ballroom swarming with plainclothes security police worried about demonstrations against the contest. "Hit the catwalk if you hear a bang," the head of security at the hotel hosting the event told 11 finalists before the show. "Do not panic, the room is full of security officers..." The first Miss Egypt, chosen by an all-male panel of judges, was Hodia Abboud, a 24-year-old interior decorator and trainee ballet teacher from the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. Abboud will be the first Egyptian to compete in the Miss Universe beauty pageant, an annual event organised by American sponsors. This year's final will be held in Singapore in May. Lebanon is the only other Arab country to have participated.

### Evangelists try to end 'holy war'

**FORT MILL (R)** — America's television Evangelists tried to end their embarrassing war of words, warning that satan alone would profit from the nationwide welter of charges involving sex, money and power. "Reconciliation, forgiveness and renewal" will come out of this, said Pat Robertson, a presidential aspirant attempting to cut off the blitz of name-calling among his fellow TV preachers. The Reverend Jerry Falwell said that Jimmy Swaggart, the Evangelist who played a key role in the battle, "has no interest in maintaining any kind of controversy. He assures me it is over. Our cause is too precious to be the subject of bickering," Swaggart said. "We're not going to permit that to happen. We are determined that satan will not have a field day." Falwell took over the PTL ministry here from James Bakker after Bakker quit last week following charges that he paid \$115,000 to hush up an extramarital affair.

### Elton John celebrates 40th birthday

**LONDON (AP)** — Pop singer Elton John celebrated his 40th birthday with a crowd of other celebrities at a lavish party. The party was held at the home of John's manager John Reid in Rickmansworth, 24 kilometres north of London. The guest list included Prince Andrew